

City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transit Advisory Committee

October 2021





Welcome

Purpose

- Get feedback from appointed members of the TAC, the City’s “community experts”, on City projects, MBTA initiatives, and development proposals

Objective

- Discussion on presentations in meetings and review of materials at Planning Board, MBTA website, etc.

Process

- Presentation from City or MBTA staff followed by discussion - questions from TAC members, public to type in questions in zoom Q&A, comments during public comment period



Present: MBTA + City + TAC Updates

Kelsey Tustin, Community Development Department



MBTA Better Bus Project

- MBTA held a virtual open house about the following projects
 - Silver Line extension
 - Bus electrification + facility modernization
 - Bus network redesign
 - Transit priority
 - Stop accessibility improvements
 - Stop eInk signs
 - Operations management
- Presentation materials can be seen at the event page. URL: <https://www.mbta.com/events/2021-08-26/public-meeting-better-bus-project-open-house-virtual>



MBTA Service Restorations

- A schedule change took effect on Sunday, August 29, 2021
- The next planned schedule change is in December 2021



MBTA Service Restoration - Buses

- MBTA restored additional bus service on August 29
 - **Restored**
 - Route 67 – Midday service to resume
 - Route 72 – New trips will be part of Route 75
 - Route 351 – New peak-hour local for Burlington to North Burlington
 - **Restored separated routes** – None
 - **Increased frequencies**
 - Subway
 - **Route diversions for the Harvard Bus Tunnel closure ended**
 - Other routes have minor changes to trips

MBTA Service Restorations – Suspended

Route	Status	Hub	Terminal	Destination/Notes
67	Restored – 8.29.2021	Alewife	Turkey Hill	Arlington Heights; Midday service suspended
72	Restored – 8.29.2021	Harvard	Aberdeen Ave.	AM toward Harvard only PM toward Aberdeen only
79	Suspended - 3.14.2021	Alewife	Arlington Heights	(Alternate to Route 77)
351	Restored – 8.29.2021	Burl. Mall	N. Burlington/Rte 3	Local – Timed to meet Route 350 at Burlington Mall

MBTA Service Restorations – Combined/Reduced Frequencies

Route	Status	Hub	Terminal	Destination/Notes
62	Combined w/76 since 8.31.2020	Alewife	Bedford/VA Hospital	Hanscom Airport, Lex. Center
76	Combined w/62 since 8.31.2020	Alewife	Lincoln Lab	Hanscom Airport, Lex. Center
78	Combined w/84 - since 3.17.2020	Harvard	Arlmont Village	Cambridge Highlands
84	Combined w/78 - since 3.17.2020	Alewife	Arlmont Village	[Peak-only] via Route 2
CT2	Reduced Frequency Since 8/2020	Ruggles	Sullivan	Union Sq., Wellington-Harrington, Kendall Sq., Longwood Medical Area

MBTA Service Restorations – Fewer Trips

Route	Status	Hub	Terminal	Destination/Notes
69	Reduced frequency since 8.31.2020	Lechmere	Harvard	Inman Square, East Cambridge, Cambridge Hospital, CRLS
71/73	Reduced frequency since 8.31.2020	Harvard	Watertown Square Waverley/Belmont	Mount Auburn Hospital
77	Reduced frequency since 8.31.2020	Harvard	Arlington Heights	Porter Square, North Cambridge, Arlington Center
85	No midday service since 8.31.2020	Kendall	Spring Hill	
88	Reduced frequency since 8.31.2020	Lechmere	Clarendon Hill	Somerville City Hall, Davis Sq.
96	Reduced frequency since 3.2021	Harvard	Medford Square	Porter Square

MBTA Service Restorations - Restored

Route	Status	Hub	Terminal	Destination/Notes
64	Restored – 8.2020	Kendall	Oak Square	Cambridgeport, Allston
68	Restored – 6.2021	Kendall	Harvard	CRLS; The Port
74	Restored – 8.2020	Harvard	Belmont Center	Via Concord Ave
75	Restored – 8.2020	Harvard	Belmont Center	Via Huron Ave
87	Restored – 8.29.2021	Lechmere	Arlington Center Clarendon Hill	Union Sq., Porter Sq., Davis Sq., Clarendon Hill – East Arlington

MBTA Service Restorations – More trips

Route	Status	Hub	Terminal	Destination/Notes
1	Additional trips 3/2021	Harvard	Nubian	Via Mass Ave
47	Additional trips 6/2021	Central	Broadway	Longwood Medical Area, Boston Medical Center (City Hospital)
66	Additional trips 8/2020	Harvard	Nubian	Via Brookline Center
70	Additional trips 6/2020	Central Sq.	Waltham	Allston, Watertown
80	Additional trips 8/2020	Lechmere	Arlington Center	East Somerville, Magoun Sq., Tufts
86	Additional trips 8/2020	Sullivan	Reservoir	Harvard, Allston, Brighton, Cleveland Circle
91	Additional trips 6/2021	Central	Sullivan	Inman Square
350	Additional trips 8/2020	Alewife	Burlington	Arlington Center



MBTA Green Line Extension

- Project is an estimated ~70~75% complete
- Partial opening planned for December 2021
 - Reopening with service to Lechmere and Union
 - No fare gate line at GLX stations, including Lechmere; stations will have a “fare paid” area
 - Fare vending machines to also serve as fare validation machines
 - Rail-replacement shuttles to remain until service to Lechmere begins
- Service to Medford/Tufts is planned to open in May 2022
- Elevator access for Union station delayed until mid 2022
- **24 new trolleys** purchased to accommodate increased ridership



MBTA “Building Back” – In progress

- Many new construction projects through December will involve route/line, busway, and station closures resulting in alternate bus stop locations, bus shuttling, or alternate travel.
- Through December: **Fitchburg Line *weekend* closures** for safety systems – rail-replacement bus shuttle service
- **Upcoming: Red Line weekend closures** for signals, tunnel repairs, floating slabs – bus shuttles



In progress

Project	Update	Next public event
Red Line Transformation	Red line signal upgrades, new trains, Alewife crossover Oct/Nov shuttles replacing line on the weekend	TBA
Fare Transformation (AFC 2.0)	TAC meeting discussion and city staff presentation in October	TBA



In progress

Project	Update	Next public event
Alewife Garage Repairs	Significant acceleration of the repair work during pandemic. Scheduled completion Fall 2023	None planned
Lechmere Viaduct Rehabilitation (Green Line Transformation)	Work to rehabilitate viaduct spans range from 88-98% complete Expect completion in December 2021	None planned



In design

Project	Update	Next public event
Route 2 Alewife Off-ramp	MassDOT Highway Division completing bridge rehabilitation – new striping, including bus lane, expected in Fall	None scheduled

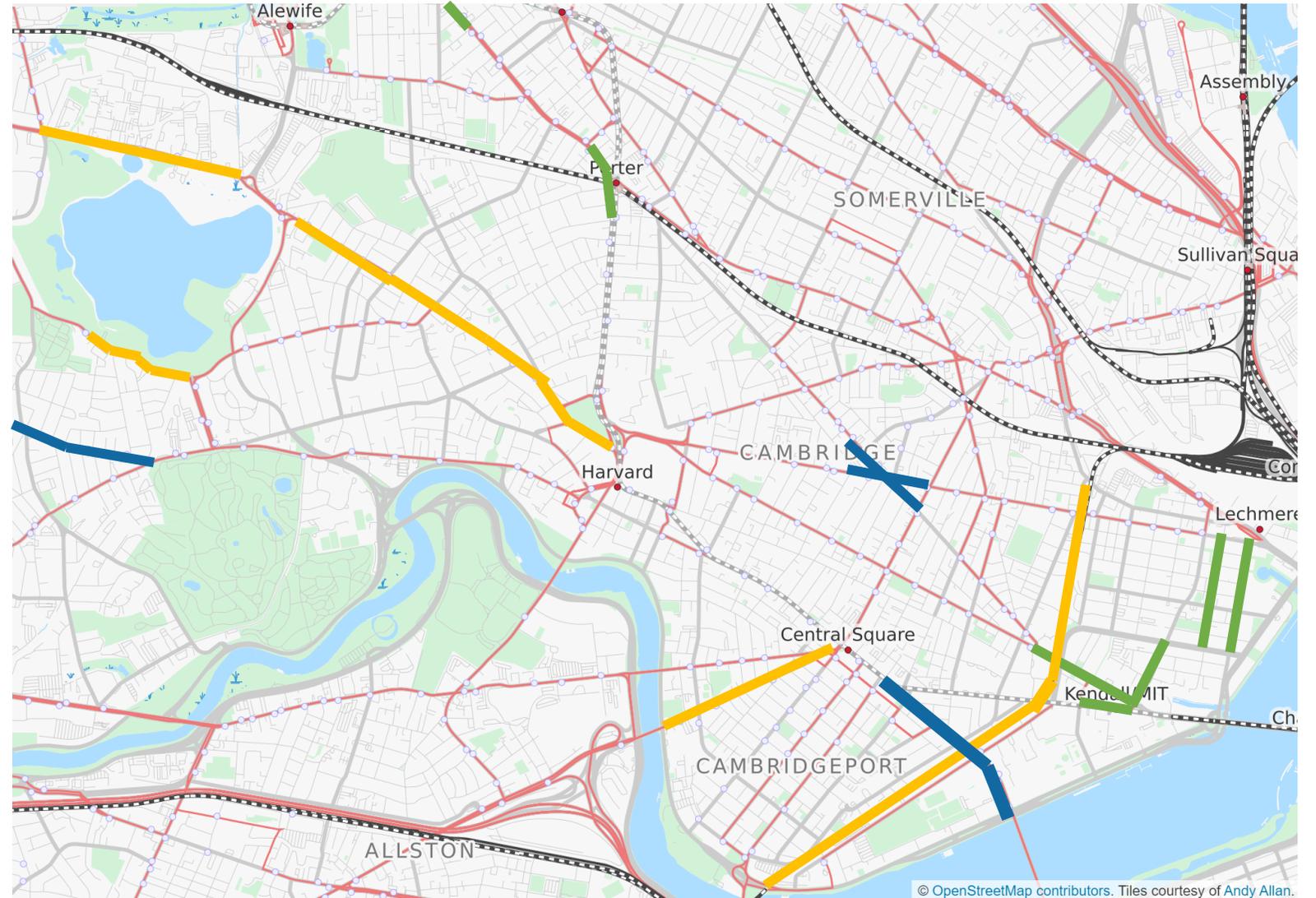
Under study

Project	Update	Next public event
Bus Network Redesign	Ongoing outreach on approach and principals for a network map Survey closed	Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021
Silver Line Extensions Alternative analysis	Draft alternatives under review and new survey	TBA
Facility modernization & Bus electrification	North Cambridge Carhouse – Conversion to BEB facility (Potentially FY2023-24)	TBA



City Updates

Selected street projects





Completed

Project	Update	Next public event
Mid-Mass Ave (Inman Street to Trowbridge Street)	CSO-related project	None planned



In Progress

Project	Update	Next public event
Inman Square	Installing curbs, new sidewalks, signal mast arms and equipment Transitioning to Cambridge St in October	E-mail updates sent out as construction work zones change, about every 2 weeks



Implementation soon

Project	Update	Next public event
Belmont Street	On hold pending coordination with MBTA. Potential start Spring 2022	None planned

In Final Design

Project	Update	Next public event
South Mass Ave Transit Priority Follow-up	Finalizing designs Implementation likely before winter CSO-related project	Public feedback period closed
North Mass. Ave (Dudley to Alewife Brook Parkway) Corridor Safety Improvements	Finalizing design for implementation by Nov CSO-related project	TBD

In Planning and Design

Project	Update	Next public event
River Street Reconstruction	Updating plaza designs	TBA
Huron Avenue – Glacken Field	Traffic analysis complete - review at Oct. meeting.	TBD
Grand Junction MUP	Ongoing review with state agencies	TBD
Concord Ave – Transit Signal Priority	Working with MBTA on installation and signal design	None scheduled

In Study

Project	Update	Next public event
Porter Square Corridor Safety Improvements	Ongoing study CSO-related project	TBA
First Street & Second Street Corridor	Accepting comments through Oct 15	Review at 10/13 Bike Cmte Mtg
Broadway/Main/Third (CRA-led)	Ongoing study of bus queue jump facility and signal priority on Broadway and Third	None currently scheduled
Transportation Impact Study Update Study	Study has begun	None currently scheduled



TAC Updates



Next round of TAC membership

- Interviewing potential new members for two-year terms
 - December may be first meeting for new members
- Last meeting for a few TAC members
 - Thank you for your participation!
- City staff will be:
 - Sending survey on meeting dates/times
 - Sending proposed dates for all advisory committee meetings in 2022



Upcoming Meetings

- November TAC meeting
 - MBTA updates on service changes for December 2021
- October Bike Committee Meeting
 - First and Second Street Study – Review of concepts
- No joint meeting of the committees for October 2021

Thank you for participating in this Transit
Advisory Committee meeting.

Stay healthy and well.

Thank You